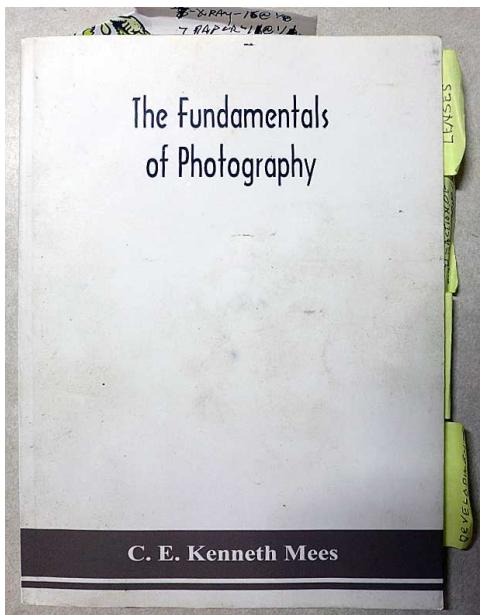


My Personal Research Go-To Books

By James R. Kyle

Thinking of other people that might be beginning the experimenting with Chemical Photography, I thought that it might save some time in offering some books that I use with my personal involvement to getting information. I shall not go into great detail about the total content of each, as like a “*book report*”, however, I shall tell of how they have helped me.

1.) “*The Fundamentals of Photography*”, By Dr. C.E. Kenneth Mees.

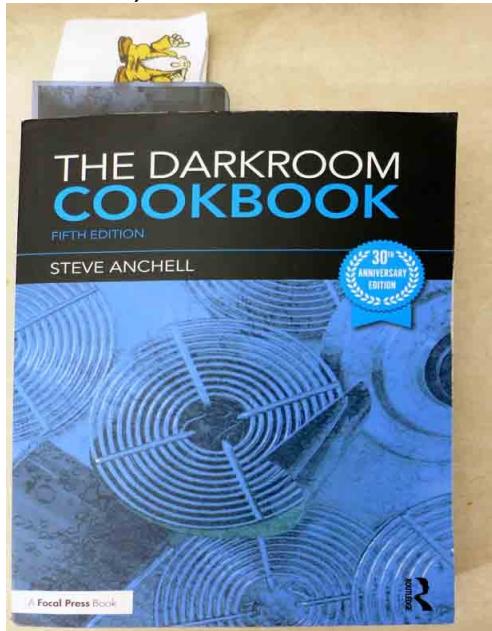


One of the more understandable, and easy to read, books about the photographic process. Written in 1921, the little book was written with a beginner entering into the photographic (B&W) process. Dr. Mees, (*the first director of the Eastman Kodak's Chemical Research Laboratory*), makes the understanding very easy and acceptable. This little book can be read within a time span of one hour. (It is also available in PDF by searching the WWW.)

As you can see by the photo, I have marked with post-it markers places for my notes when giving a lecture. And even given it was written over one hundred years ago - It still holds value.

((*After all = If you have not read something - It IS NEW to you. = So = Enjoy the reading.*))

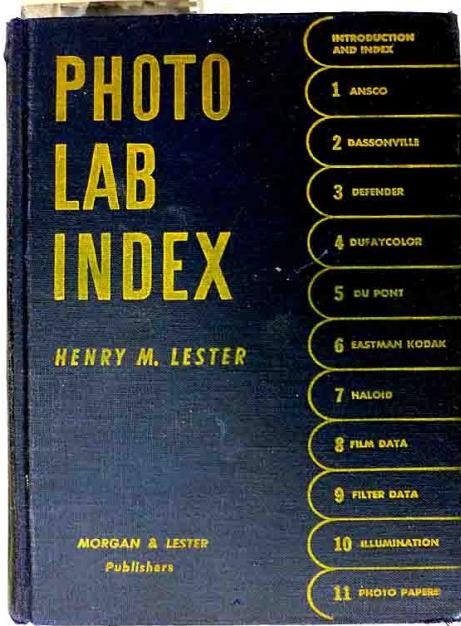
2.) “*The Darkroom Cookbook*” By Steven Anchell.



The next book to acquire is the most current edition of Steve Anchell's “*The Darkroom Cookbook*” - ***Fifth Edition***. Within this one book there is so much trusted and true information that it really knocked my socks off (and that by the way, so was with the *Third Edition*.) The ***FIFTH Edition*** is “*More, Better, Yet*”. I feel that this almost above all other Chemical Photography books, will help every photographer, be them a beginner, as well as a 60+ year seasoned veteran of the craft of making images.

Extremely easy to read, a great reference, and jammed packed with Formulas, Tables, and easy to find “How To Do Things” in any darkroom. But - as Steve says in the “forward” of this edition, it is not written to be read from front to back. It IS a REFERENCE BOOK. (**GET IT.**)

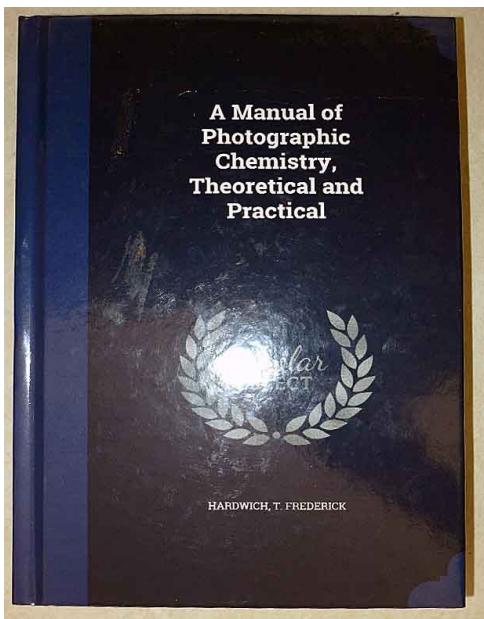
3.) "The Photo Lab Index" By Henry M. Lester



This Reference book (shown here the 9th Edition from 1947) Can be difficult to acquire. I came across it on eBay for \$7.00 U.S.D. And I almost broke my arm getting my wallet out. There are older and newer editions - This one, to me is one I really like. (*This edition is one month older than I with age. So it is a personal thing.*)

I can not, in one paragraph, tell of all the "goodies" contained in this volume. The book is over 1,125 pages long. There is almost every chemical formula for photography in this book, and seemingly MORE. (The Plot is rather a bore.) But- I feel that my reference library would not be complete without this volume.

4.) "A Manual of Photographic Chemistry, Theoretical and Practical" - 1886 By Hardwich, T. Frederick



Yep! It's old... I have it mostly for it's historical information. It shows us just how far we have come in the many years of "film photography" - and a little before into the "Wet Plate Era". (*I do not consider this a "mandatory" volume in a modern Chemical Photographer's library, but I found it interesting from an interest of history.*)

5.) "Photographic Facts and Formulas", By E.J. Wall & Franklin Jordan Revised and Extensively Rewritten By John S. Carroll

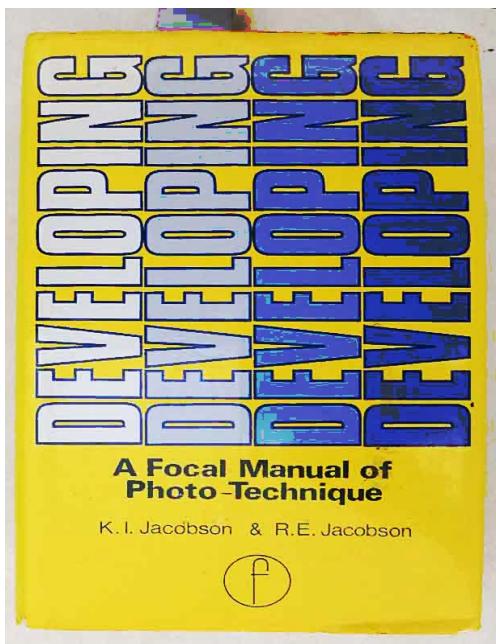


Not really necessary, I have a copy of this, and it is a bit technical, and most of the information, and

more understandable in "The Darkroom Cookbook". (Just showing it because I had it before I bought Steve's Third Edition of T.D.C.)

6.) ***“Developing - A Focal Manual of Photo-Technique”***,

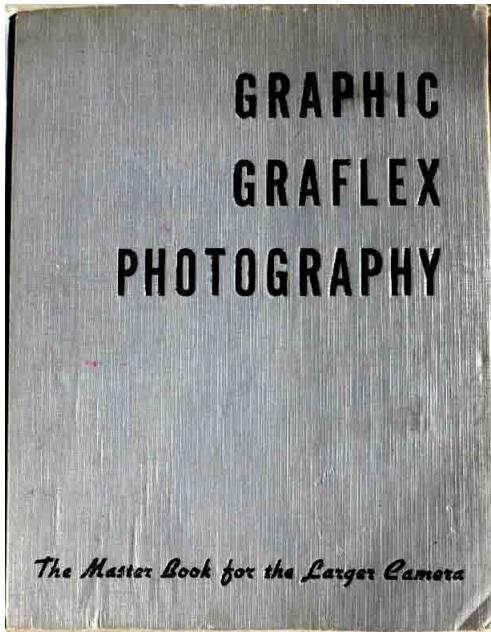
By K.I. Jacobson and R.E. Jacobson



More information from another viewpoint. When I do any research for any might be improvements, I often like to read different “takes” on the same subject. When you are endeavoring to improve, or, make easier anything, It is always a good idea to get as much information that you can. Some of the many books, as well as articles, seem repetitive - however - it is a good idea to get a wide view of things.

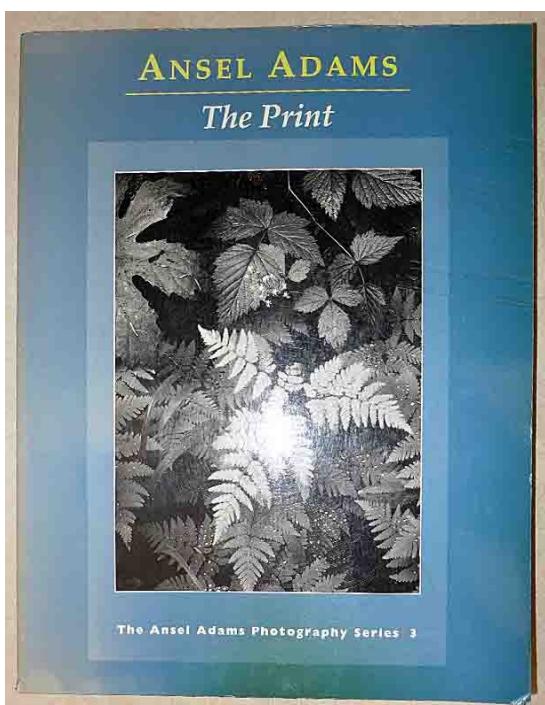
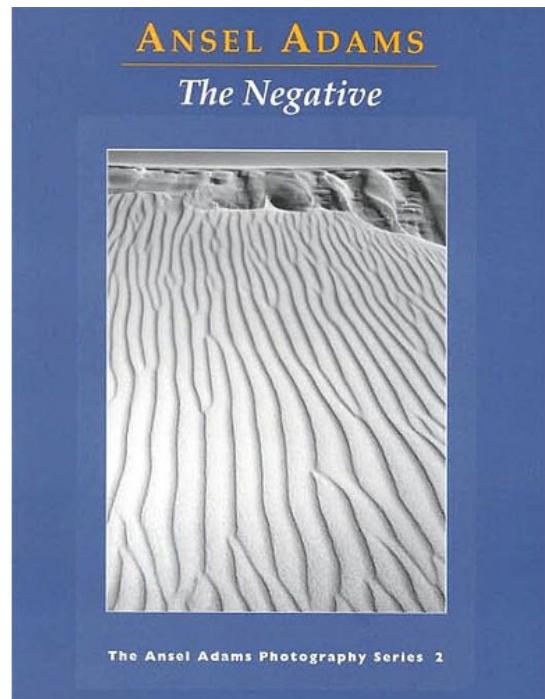
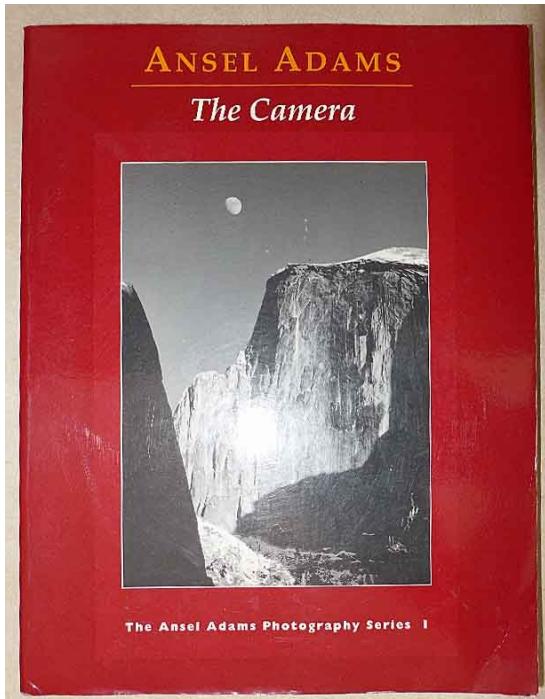
7.) ***“Graphic and Graflex Photography - The Master Book For The Larger Camera”***,

By Willard D. Morgan & Henry M. Lester



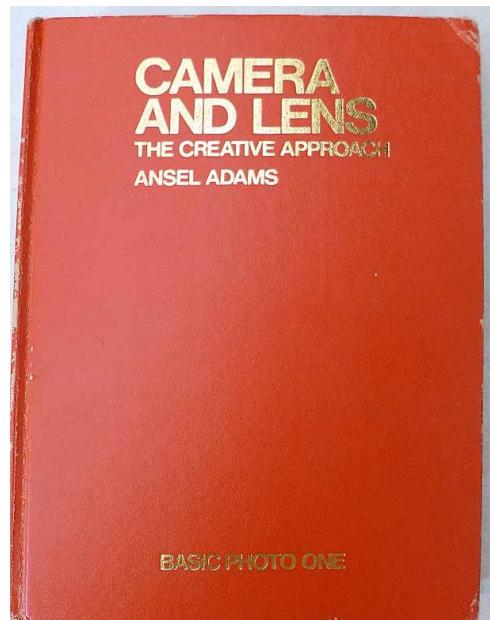
There is quite a lot of great information between the covers of this book. First published in 1940 by Morgan and Lester Publishing Co. NYC, NY - This is one really fine printing of use for *R.B. Graflex, Speed Graphic and Crown Graphic cameras*. Oh! But Wait... There is much more to be found in this time-tested volume. Very well written and extremely understandable for anyone interested in Large Format photography.

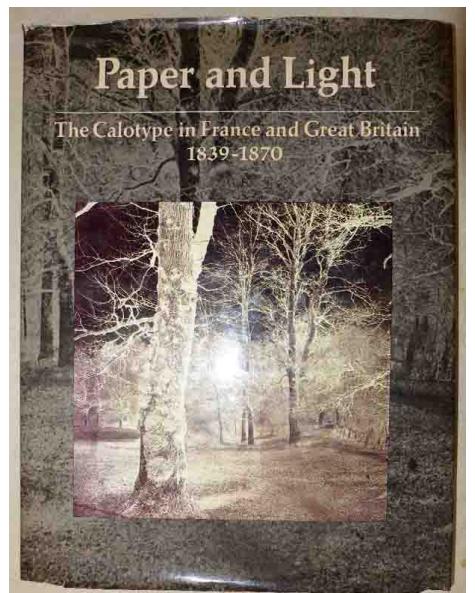
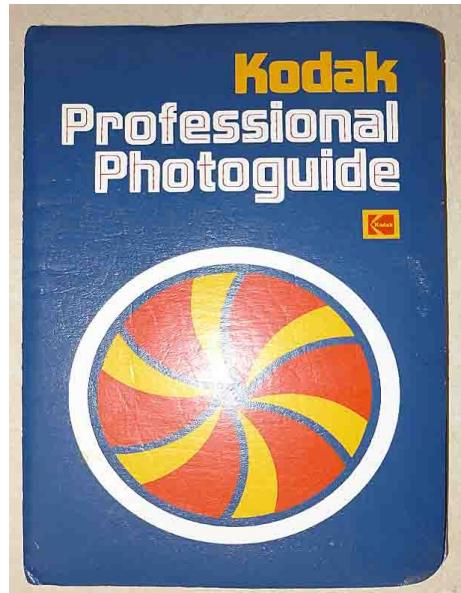
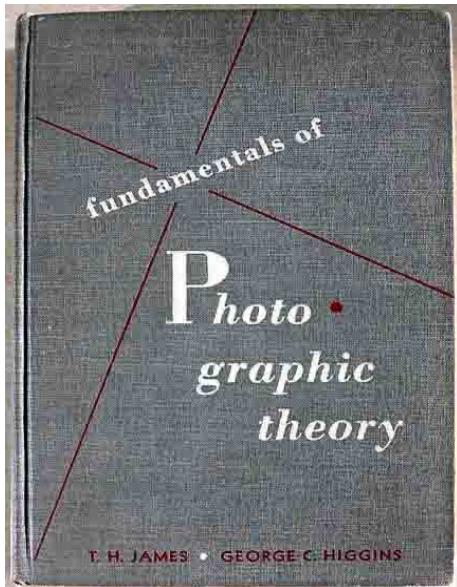
MORE Reading For You—



Sometimes referred to as the "**Holy Trinity of Photography**", it is my belief that almost every Chemical Photographer has these three volumes in their personal library. They are not "out-dated", whatsoever.

One More By Ansel Adams:





The last three of my “*help books*” are:

“Fundamentals of Photographic Theory” → A very technical book, for advanced photographers - The mathematics is difficult if you do not understand Physics.

“Kodak Professional Photoguide” → A handy little book with “calculators”.

“Paper and Light” → More of a historical book of The Paper Negative Process.

Every photographer has books, PDF's, and other written materials in their library. The choice is very personal to each person, and should be. I am NOT telling anyone what to buy, or download, I am only showing the reader of this article a few of the books that I have read, re-read, and constantly make use of. Especially the first books afore mentioned.

Also -

I stress the keeping of a Hand-Written Notebook. (Or in my case Four notebooks.) One for my “Day Book” (A journal of events) Another for my experiments, One for my “Photo-Collecting Tours”. And the last one is my Formula Notebook. I do NOT rely on my memory - I keep notes so I do NOT have to remember it. When I teach - I have three requirements. 1.) You Must Have The Desire To Learn. 2.) That you place an Effort to improve yourself, and your photographic art. And 3.) That you will always bring a notebook to “class” / With Two Pencils.

